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FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS—CIO

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CIO DEMANDS WAGE HIKES

FTA's six delegates to the 8th CIO Convention in Atlantic City were (left to right) Robbie May Riddick, Armando Ramirez (both vice presidents); Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane; President Donald Henderson; Organization Director John Tisa and Vice-President Louis Jedlicka.

(Stories, other pictures on pages 4, 5)

Here's part of the close to 700 delegates at the 8th CIO Convention. Red-baiters, bosses and the newspapers were disappointed when CIO kept and reaffirmed unity on basic issues.

(Other stories, pictures on pages 4, 5)

Meeting in its 8th annual convention in Atlantic City, the more than six million strong CIO went on record demanding "substantial wage increases" to head off the "swift economic tragedy which now confronts" all American workers unless the people's buying power is lifted to something approaching balance with the rest of the nation's economy.

1946 profits, after taxes, are now at the all-time high of 11 billion dollars plus, with an estimate for the final quarter of the year at a 15 billion dollar annual rate, the convention resolution on wages pointed out, with CIO President Philip Murray adding:

"Contrast that profit picture of American corporate business with that of the American wage earner today. The American wage earner's living status is now $11.04 per week less than it was in February."

This, he added, is the real danger to America, and not any fancied attack on our form of government. "A 15 billion dollar profit for American industry constitutes a threat, a threat to our national economy," he said.

Murray's wage speech, and the other CIO policy resolutions, made an effective answer to the daily press and other anti-union forces that were hoping for a split in CIO on the "red issue."

The action on wages, and on other basic CIO programs, proved again that no false issue of "left versus right" would be permitted to divert the CIO from its main job of organizing the unorganized, winning wage increases, fighting discrimination and taking its part in the world struggle for peace and security.

Speaking on organizing, FTA President Henderson put special emphasis on the Southern drive, pointing out that "the future of the progressive working class in this country depends on our success.

"We in FTA recognized the basic and decisive importance of the Southern drive," he said. "We organize the lowest paid workers and we have more minority groups than any other union.

"I know how difficult such a drive is. But we must remember that the stakes involved in this drive are so great that all other considerations must be put aside."

LEAF WORKERS GET 1st CONTRACT IN HISTORY

For the first time in their history, leaf house workers in the North Carolina and Virginia plants where FTA won bargaining rights in the past several months, have received wage increases bringing them above the minimum required by the Wage and Hour law.

With negotiations going on in 25 plants covering 10,000 leaf tobacco workers, FTA has already signed 10 contracts.

All the contracts expire before the beginning of the 1947 season, at which time the union plans to press for a master contract covering all the leaf houses in the area.

"This is the beginning of history for trade unionists in this section," said Ed McCrea, FTA organizer in Wilson, N. C. "In spite of the united opposition of the companies, these agreements are being squeezed out of them at the end of the leaf house season. Work stoppages and sit downs in many of the plants have convinced the employers to deal with the unions."

The 10 contracts negotiated so far by leaf house Local 10 includes a 10c an hour general increase, union security, vacations and retroactive pay, according to McCrea.

"You See, Friend? I Told You Your Watch Was No Good"

FUN IN DIXIE

Life can be beautiful in the Old South, as the radio commercials and the slick paper ads are constantly reminding us.

Apparently it can also be fun—if you happen to be one of Hitler's little white supremacy boys and a Senator.

For a real rib-tickling insight into how hilarious things can be in Mississippi, take the story in the New York Times on the Bilbo hearings now going on in Jackson, the Magnolia State's capital.

(Note: Bilbo's hearing is being conducted by his distinguished friend and colleague from Louisiana, Sen. Arthur J. Ellender. The supporting cast is Sen. H. Styles Bridges (R., N. H.) and Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper (R., Ia.)

A Negro war veteran is testifying. According to the Times reporter: "He had been beaten with a steel cable by three white men for trying to register . . . (who) he said, took him to the woods, ordered him to strip, and beat him about the legs with a double steel cable."

Later they told him: "If he tried to vote they would kill him."

Fun, isn't it? Bilbo thought so. According to the Times reporter: "His enjoyment of the situation seemed to spread to committee members as the day wore on. He and Mr. Ellender began to exchange winks as questions were fired at witnesses."

But Bilbo and Ellender weren't the only ones who knew a good, clean joke when they saw one. The two Republicans had their fun too. It came when another Negro witness, the Reev. William Bender, testified that "he had been forcibly prevented from voting in the primary by an armed deputy sheriff."

Sen. Bridges, said the Times reporter, "observed that he and Sen. Hickenlooper were getting lonely, as they had not seen a Republican since arriving in Mississippi . . .

"This and other Senatorial witticisms kept the 300 spectators in a gay mood all day, and court attendants were frequently busy calling for order as laughter greeted the sallies of the committee members."

Fun, eh? Hitler's ghost must be laughing itself sick.

UNAMERICANISM, INC.

The CIO Convention did well to warn the American people of the coming attack on civil rights. The attack, in fact, is upon us now.

In Winston-Salem, N. C., three FTA organizers and union members are under savage road gang sentences for the "crime" of picketing during a strike.

In Philadelphia, Pa., a dozen members of the CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers were threatened with jail for picketing during a strike.

In Charleston, S. C., an FTA local president is smeared by police for leading a strike.

In Washington, D. C., the notorious Wood-Rankin Committee announces it will get after "communists" in the labor movement—by which they mean the CIO.

All these attacks on basic labor rights have one common source — the organized employers of America. In Winston-Salem its R. J. Reynolds and Co. In Philadelphia it's General Electric, in Charleston, the American Tobacco Co.

This is Un-Americanism, Incorporated — and there's only one answer to it — ORGANIZE, UNITE, FIGHT FOR YOUR RIGHTS!

The Main Issue Ahead

By DONALD HENDERSON, President, FTA

The outstanding issue at the 8th CIO Convention was stated clearly and forcefully by Philip Murray in the words: "We believe that American business is now extracting enough profit out of its various enterprises to enable them to make substantial wage concessions without necessarily increasing prices."

This was the main issue at the convention, the issue around which the entire CIO united and pledged its energy, its resources and its fighting strength for the struggles to come.

The newspapers covering the convention missed this point entirely. They missed it not out of ignorance, but deliberately, because they wanted their readers to miss it also.

They did not want their readers to know that the CIO was a united, vigorous body of six million working men and women with a program to raise living standards and win security for the American people.

The picture they wanted the American people to receive was one of dissension and disruption in the CIO. They wanted the people to believe that the CIO was torn apart by a "left versus right" dispute. They wanted to give their readers the impression that the CIO was about to fall to pieces in a fight between "communists" and anti-communists.

When this did not happen, the newspapers and the employers they represent were furious. They denounced Murray and the CIO bitterly for the CIO's failure to do their bidding—which was to commit suicide on orders of the bosses.

Every trade unionist—except the most rabid red-baiter — knows that you can't fight the bosses and yourself at the same time, and expect to win.

This is especially true in a wage drive, where you need every ounce of strength and unity you can muster to meet the employer's counter offensives.

It is also true — and the CIO convention reaffirmed it by its actions on other issues—that you cannot organize, cannot have successful political action, cannot build international labor unity—unless you are united.

The success of the CIO Southern organizing drive, where affiliated unions — and particularly the FTA — are cooperating in the CIO Organizing Committee is further proof, if more is needed.

The unity of the CIO around a correct foreign policy of big power unity, of supporting the United Nations, of building the World Federation of Trade Unions, demonstrates the point once again.

The CIO came out of its 8th convention united on these and all other issues—including the "left-right" business.

That is why the newspapers and the employers they represent are so disappointed and angry at the CIO.

Its up to us to keep them feeling that way.

FTA news

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Win Biggest Citrus Vote

Capping even its own record of success in the Southern organizing drive, FTA this week won the largest citrus canning plant in Florida by a vote of 1,066 to 156 at the Pasco Packing Co. in Dade City.

The vote, won by the CIO Organizing Committee over "no union," puts FTA solidly into Florida's huge citrus industry and extends the organizing drive to its furthest Southern point to date.

"The huge margin by which these workers chose the CIO as their bargaining agent clearly shows that Florida citrus employes want and need strong unions," Van A. Bittner, chairman of the CIO Organizing Committee, said in commenting on the victory.

"We confidently expect the employes of other plants in the state to rapidly follow them into the CIO.

"While the CIO was given heated opposition by the AFL during the organizing campaign, even though the latter organization was not on the ballot, indications are that relations with the Pasco management will be amicable," Bittner added.

The election campaign was quietly and efficiently run by CIO Committee organizers headed by Directors Carey Haigler and Charles L. Cowl, acording to FTA's Florida representative John Lackner. A last minute distribution of union buttons, plus one leaflet giving simple election directions, at the end of the drive, did the trick.

A big part of the job was done by personal contact between the workers themselves, with the CIO organizers giving technical direction and advice as needed. Working with CIO Director Cowl on the drive were CIO organizers David Robb, Henry Hayes and Leonard Filaseta.

Active FTA members in the drive included H. L. Burnette, president of Local 43; Joseph Hillman, vice-president; Thomas R. Pitts, financial secretary; Leslie Kirby, recording secretary and G. T. Council, James McGuire and E. S. Harrison, trustees.

AFL opposition to FTA developed strongly during the campaign, even though the AFL was not on the ballot. The usual anti-FTA smears, redbaiting, and attemps to stir up anti-Negro feeling were in evidence—but they didn't work.

The plant, which employs 1,700 workers for nine months of the year, is billed as the largest in the world.

3 more wins

FTA chalked up three more NLRB election victories in the Southern drive this week, in addition to the big victory at Pasco Packing. They are:

Export Leaf Tobacco Co., South Boston, N.C., where FTA won 137 votes to "no union's" 38.

Leverton Cannery Co., Alvin, Tex., with 121 for FTA and 67 for "no union."

Southern Cotton Oil Co., Savannah, Ga., 49 for FTA, zero for "no union."

29 GET JOBS IN FTA ACTION

The National Labor Relations Board has ordered the reinstatement of 29 workers at the G. W. Hume plant of Turlock, Calif., in a far-reaching decision which sets the pattern for 580 blacklisted cannery workers throughout northern California.

The Board's order, issued October 31, is the first for reinstatement and back pay by the board itself in the California cannery case. Circumstances under which the Hume workers lost their jobs are identical with those in which other FTA-CIO supporters in California canneries were blacklisted by bosses working through AFL Teamsters.

The Board's order in the Hume case also sets aside the company's contract with the Teamsters and orders it to "cease and desist" in its recognition of the Teamsters.

Indications were, however, that it would take a Federal Court order to make the Hume company comply.

Tom Birchall, general superintendent of the plant, told FTA International Organizers Steve Murdock and Harold Dillard quite frankly that the company did not intend to comply with the Board's order. This means the NLRB will have to go to Federal Court for enforcement of its order.

Some of the fired workers have been allowed to return to their jobs but none has received back pay, and those who have returned have been forced by the company to clear with the Teamsters as a condition of employment. All of them lost employment when they took open positions in support of FTA prior to last summer's cannery election.

LOCAL 80 HELPS GUILD STRIKERS

Members of Local 80, employed at the Campbell Soup plant in Camden, N.J., are learning at first hand something about "freedom of the press" that the big newspaper publishers ordinarily don't like to talk about.

They're learning it on the picketline at the Camden Courier-Post, where CIO Newspaper Guild workers have been on strike for over a month now and where Local 80 has been supporting the strikers with mass demonstrations, free food and the use of Local 80's building as strike headquarters.

The strike has been fought by the newspaper publisher, J. David Stern, with almost every weapon in the anti-union book, including violent police attempts to suppress the fundamental right to strike and picket.

When the strike began, Local 80 Organizer Anthony Valentino and W. Harker, president of Local 1 of the CIO Shipbuilders union, met with Police Chief Frost and Commissioner Rhone to protest police interference with the right to picket and distribute leaflets.

The police heads told them bluntly "from now on things will be different in Camden." This was two days after the election—and Rhone is a Republican.

CIO Council leaders, including Local 80 President Herbert Kling, then went to see Mayor Brunner, a Democrat, who promised to "look into the matter" and then left town on a vacation.

Fed up with this runaround, the Camden CIO then decided to hold a holiday in support of the strikers, and hundreds poured out on the picketlines. This was the signal for the cops to wade in, clubs flying, and 38 pickets, including Local 80 members, were arrested.

Said Bob Woolley, Local 80 PAC chairman and a veteran: "I'll be a ——— if this is what I fought for."

The answer from Local 80's rank and file was equally decisive. Four thousand of them came out of the plant gates at the end of the shift and joined 6,000 other CIO workers on the line around the Courier-Post.

Stern's union-busting tactics on the Courier strike are not exactly news to Local 80 members. They recall how his newspapers in Camden and Philadelphia tried their damndest to bust up FTA at the time of the dispute with Campbell Soup last summer.

As Tony Valentino put it: "Stern's 'liberalism' breaks down very easily when it comes to a showdown on fundamental union rights. Local 80 members remember the job he tried to do on our union when we had our last dispute with Campbells. We're going to stick with the Newspaper Guild strikers until they win."

Huge crowd of FTA Local 80 members pours out of the Campbell Soup Co. plant in Camden, N.J., to support CIO Newspaper Guild strikers at Courier-Post. Shortly after this picture was made cops attacked pickets, clubs swinging. Strike is against self-styled "liberal" J. David Stern, who also owns struck Philadelphia Record. (See story above)

FTA MEETS IN CALIFORNIA

Sixty-four delegates from 14 FTA locals in California and Arizona hammered out a concrete program for organization, political action and education at a two-day conference at Asilomar, Calif. November 23-24.

Dedicated to the memory of Paul Knight and Kenneth Hammaker, members of FTA Local 78 who were murdered during an Imperial Valley strike in 1935, the conference had as its keynote the need for further organization in the fresh fruit and vegetable packing field.

Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane attended the conference from the FTA national office.

Determined to carry forward the cause in which Knight and Hammaker gave their lives, the conference voted to launch a concerted drive in the packing sheds of the San Joaquin Valley.

The conference, which spoke sharply for "substantial" wage increases, also took the following action:

1. Called for the continuation of rent control.

2. Endorsed and pledged active support to the CIO housing program.

3. Opposed the proposed Republican 20% "across the board" income tax reduction, called for reduction in lower brackets only.

Pledged to fight with all resources any attempt to attach crippling amendments to the Wagner Act, particularly amendments which would exclude workers in FTA jurisdiction.

5. Determined to join in leadership of fight to remove from the books the vicious "right-to-work" open shop amendment adopted in Arizona.

6. Resolved to bring all packing shed workers within coverage of California's unemployment insurance law.

7. Pledged full support to PAC program of the CIO including "a real campaign within the locals for collection of PAC contributions."

"Never before," said the PAC resolution, "has political action been more clearly a bread and butter proposition than it is today."

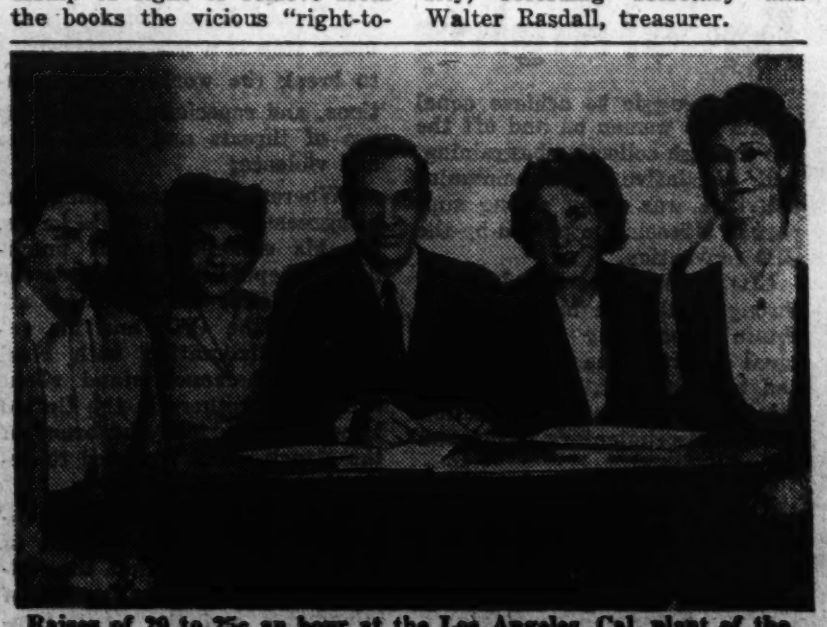
The conference also adopted unanimously a resolution condemning red-baiting as ". . . a disruptive tactic which results in disorganizing and confusing workers in a period when the greatest unity of all workers is needed."

The conference recommended that a two weeks FTA school be held at Asilomar at a date to be chosen by the Regional Director following consultation with FTA locals in the Region.

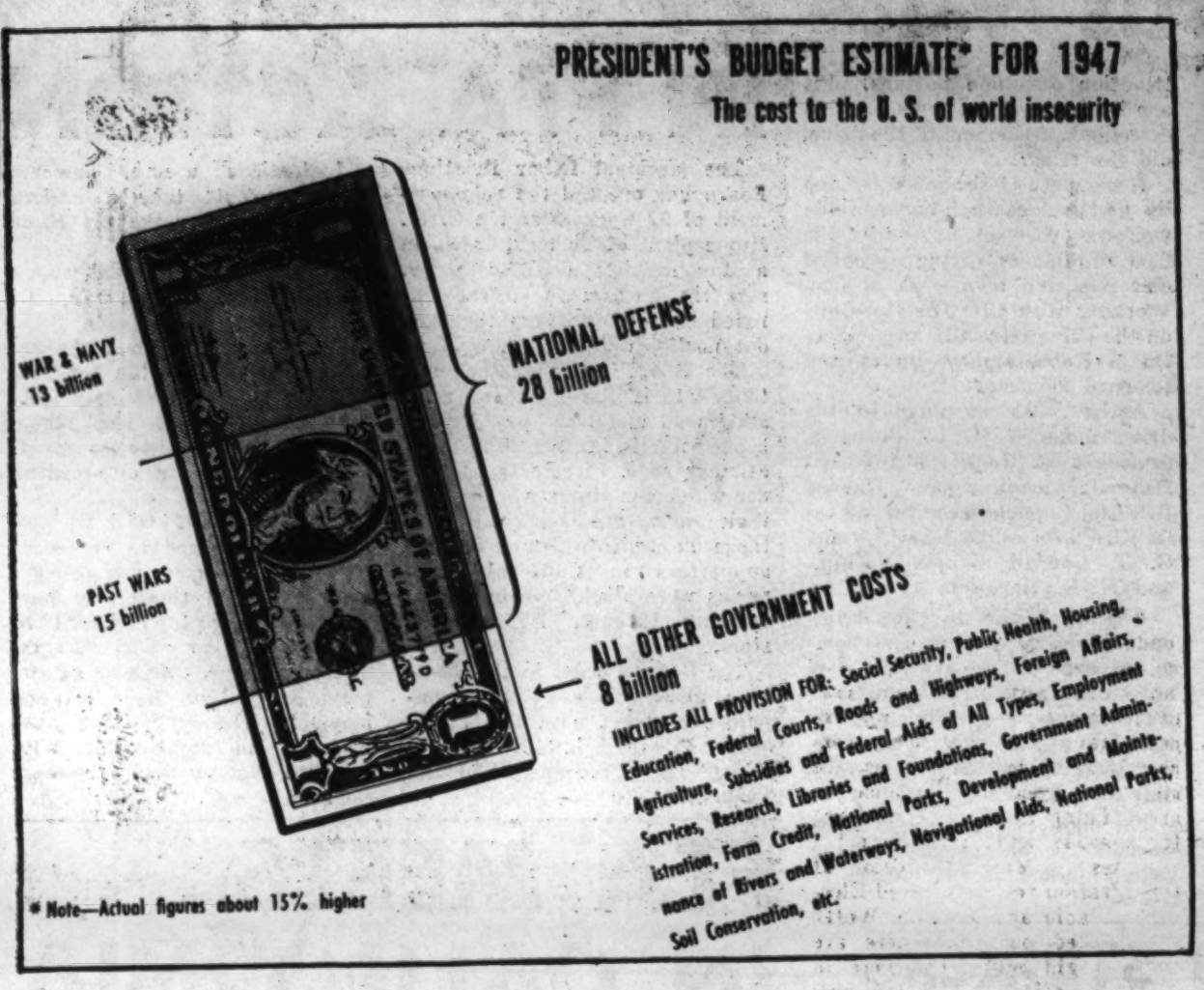
Regional Director Louisa Moreno was unanimously elected Regional Council delegate to the California CIO Council Convention. She is a vice-president of the California CIO Council.

New Officers

Elections of new officers took place in Local 92, Indianapolis, Ind., where Owen Young was re-elected president, Pete Huntsman, vice-president, Herbert Jenkins, financial secretary, Thomas Garrity, recording secretary and Walter Rasdall, treasurer.



Raises of 20 to 25c an hour at the Los Angeles, Cal. plant of the Diamond Walnut Co. are behind the smiles from Local 25 committee members. Shown above are Joe Cruz, Mary Garcia, Charles Gallego, Ramona Winters and Amelia Gunther. Story was in Nov. 1 issue of FTA News.


PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ESTIMATE* FOR 1947
The cost to the U. S. of world insecurity
WAR & NAVY 13 billion
NATIONAL DEFENSE 28 billion
PAST WARS 15 billion
ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT COSTS 8 billion
INCLUDES ALL PROVISION FOR: Social Security, Public Health, Housing, Education, Federal Courts, Roads and Highways, Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Subsidies and Federal Aids of All Types, Employment Services, Research, Libraries and Foundations, Government Administration, Farm Credit, National Parks, Development and Maintenance of Rivers and Waterways, Navigational Aids, National Parks, Soil Conservation, etc.
* Note—Actual figures about 15% higher

Who pays for the present U.S. foreign policy of "get tough" with the Soviet Union and other democratic and friendly nations? Chart showing share of total U.S. budget going to maintain big army, navy and airforce, plus atom bombs, proves that YOU pay the freight for the brasshats and for the big munitions kings—you the worker and taxpayer.

Profits Threat To Us—Murray

Profiteering employers are the greatest threat to the U. S. today, Philip Murray told the 8th CIO Convention in his opening speech.

Excerpts from the speech, which set a united CIO on the track of substantial wage increases for U. S. workers, follow:

What has happened to this economy? Certainly the 18.5c wage increase has been completely wiped out. Certainly it is true that a steelworker's wage, which was $54.32 in March, 1946, today, based on the value of his earning power is $43.28. So his earning status is $11.04 less today than it was in March of this year.

What has happened to the employer in the meantime?

In the year 1939, corporate profits after taxes were five billion dollars. The peak profits of corporate interests in the U.S. were 1 billion dollars, after taxes —after taxes.

What is it now? What sort of financial status do they occupy now compared to the peak period during the war? Is it less than it was during the peace period of 1939? Is it less than it was during the peak period of 1944?

No. To the contrary, facts from government sources indicate that American corporate interests can reap a profit of 15 billion dollars based on the rate for the last three months of 1946—an unprecedented profit, a higher profit than ever experienced at any time in the history of American business.

What could be more dangerous to our national economy, what might constitute a greater threat to full employment and full production in the U.S. than this distorted, wholly inequitable distribution of our national wealth?

I say that a 15 billion dollar profit for American industry constitutes a threat to our national economy, a threat to the maintenance of the system of free enterprise in the U.S.A.

These people who propagate false notions about American labor attribute many of the economic ills of the nation to labor, but in their distortion of the facts they never attempt to present to the American people the simple, pure, unadulterated truth.

It is asserted that certain interests here in the U.S. threaten our institutions and our form of government—and I speak now with particular reference to allegations made concerning the Communist Party — but what could constitute a graver threat to the perpetuity of our free existence in the U.S. than this fiscal picture — a far greater threat than anything which ever presented itself to the people of the U.S.

WAGE CRISIS FACES U. S.—CIO

An "immediate wage crisis and a grave threat to the American economy"—that can only be met by substantial wage increases for all American workers—exists today, the 8th CIO convention said in its main resolution on the wage issue.

Passed by unanimous rising vote of the 600 odd delegates, the resolution opened by saying:

"The termination of the war and the needs of reconversion created an immediate wage crisis for the American wage earner and a grave threat to the American economy."

The crisis has been created by many factors, all operating against the workers' living standards and heading the nation for a depression, unless halted at once, it added.

Among these factors the resolution listed the loss of overtime, down-grading of jobs, transfers from relatively higher paid war jobs back to lower paid civilian jobs, the re-timing of incentive systems,, and of course, the tremendous rise in the cost of living.

This last factor the resolution said, is the fruit of a big business "conspiracy which sought, through unwarranted price increases, to destroy the living standards of the workers.

Profit hungry lobbies sought to blackmail the housewife hunting desperately for meat, the veteran in search of a home, the starving peoples of the world looking to America for food," it added.

And on top of that, American monopoly has now produced phoney shortages by deliberately withholding needed goods in the hope of further inflation in prices.

Pointing to the huge profit increases of from four billion dollars in 1939 (after taxes) to an estimated annual rate of around $15 billion for the next year, the resolution declared:

"While profits soar the worker's share of the national income steadily declines. Millions of American workers find themselves today totally unable to meet a budget providing for the minimum necessities of living.

"This situation can only result in an early and inevitable economic depression as in 1929 with the accompanying human misery and chaos.

"Our people must have sustained purchasing power and a decent living wage to avert the swift economic tragedy whcih now confronts us.

"This is the important task for CIO unions in their approaching collective bargaining conferences."

DISARM, BUILD PEACE, CONVENTION URGES

Friendship and unity among the U.S., the Soviet Union and Britain "is indispensable to the continued existence of the human race," the CIO said in its main resolution on foreign policy at the 8th annual convention.

Unless this policy is followed, "the world faces a war which means destruction of humanity itself," the resolution added, pointing out than unity can "flow only from understanding, negotiation and agreement and not from maneuver and pressure and denunciation on the part of any of the Big Three who share the major responsibility to the peoples of the whole world for permanent peace.

"We reject all proposals for American participation in any bloc or alliance which would destroy the unity of the Big Three," the resolution said.

"Peace is not merely possible. In an atomic age it is indispensable to the continued existence of the human race."

Describing this policy as the heritage of the late President Roosevelt, the convention urged that it be carried out by a series of positive steps in American foreign relations, including:

1. "Early agreement among the powers for world disarmament. Grandiose demonstrations of military power through large standing armies, and naval power, through establishment of worldwide military bases by any nation do not lend themselves to mutual trust."

2. "Utter destruction of all vestiges of fascism in Germany and Japan," including ending of cartels which furnished Hitler's economic power for aggression.

3. The overthrow of Franco in Spain and of fascism in Argentina with the aid of the U.S. and the United Nations.

4. Ending of U.S. and other intervention on the side of reaction in China; continuation of international relief for war devastated countries; independence for all "economically backward and colonial countries"; international control of atomic energy and an end of stockpiling of atomic bombs.

On the question of food for world relief and reconstruction, the convention said: "Under no circumstances should food or any other aid given by any country be used as a means of coercing needy people in the exercise of their right of self-government."

FTA COUNCIL SUPPORTS MINERS

A demand that the U.S. government drop the use of injunctions and the Smith-Connally Act against John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers, and, "advise the mine operators to grant the just demnads of the union," was voiced in a resolution passed at the FTA Illinois-Indiana regional council meeting in Indianapolis this week.

The resolution said in part: "Whereas, the current attack of the federal government against the United Mine Workers is the latest step in a nation-wide drive to break the workers' organizations, and especially the CIO, by use of threats and actual force and violence;

"Whereas notwithstanding our disagreement with John L. Lewis, for his endorsement of union-hating Republican candidates for public office, his repeated attacks on the CIO, and his reported collaboration with Nazi forces, we cannot stand silent while our brothers in the United Mine Workers take the brunt of the attack which is aimed to destroy us all;

"Be it resolved, that the Illinois-Indiana Regional Council of FTA-CIO demands that the federal government drop the use of injunctions and the Smith-Connally Act against John L. Lewis and the United Mine Workers, and advise the mine operators to grant the just demands of the union."

James Barnett, of Indianapolis, was elected delegate to the international convention, which will be held at Philadelphia, January 13-18.

The day long session was addressed by FTA President Donald Henderson; Powers Hapgood, CIO regional director; and Walter Frisbie, Indiana CIO secretary. The delegates mapped plans for an all out drive for wage increases and other benefits for workers in canneries and other food processing plants in the region.

Other resolutions passed by the conference called for:

A return to the foreign policy of "Big Three Unity" as advocated by Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Energetic government action against the Ku Klux Klan and Columbians, in place of the present drive against organized labor.

Support for the striking workers of the Chicago Macaroni Company; ousting of Senator Theodore S. Bilbo from the U.S. Senate; recognition of the Spanish Republican Government in exile; condemnation of racial discrimination in Indianapolis, and of Mayor Robert H. Tyndall's recent veto of the City FEPC ordinance; continuation of the struggle to organize cannery workers in California.

Equal Rights

The struggle to achieve equal rights for women on and off the job through collective bargaining, and legislative and community activities was given strong support in a resolution passed by the CIO convention.

CIO unions were urged to try through collective bargaining to obtain equal pay for women, equal opportunities for promotion and advancement, adequate maternity leave and protection against discriminatory hiring and firing.

The resolution on women also champions all legislation designed to raise minimum wages, shorten hours and improve working conditions for women and urges support for a genuine equal rights bill assuring women full citizenship rights, in place of the fake Equal Rights Amendment touted by leisure-class women and employer interests which would deprive women of present protective legislation.

HIT MINE INJUNCTION

SHARP criticism of the federal government's resort to the use of anti-labor injunctions in the current dispute of the United Mine Workers was voiced unanimously by the CIO convention.

In a special amendment added to the statement on anti-labor injunctions approved by the resolutions committee, the convention declared:

"We condemn the action taken by the Federal Government in obtaining a sweeping injunction against the United Mine Workers of America. This is a clear violation of the Norris-LaGuardia Act. No anti-labor injunction can dispose of the problems now confronting workers who see their earnings shrink before the fast rising cost of living. American democracy cannot tolerate any attempt to impose economic slavery through vicious anti-labor injunctions."

Organize For Progress—CIO

CIO will meet all attacks on labor's gains and on labor's rights by keeping on with its "fundamental task of organizing the unorganized into strong and powerful industrial unions," the 8th CIO Convention resolved this week in a unanimous declaration from the Atlantic City meeting.

"This is a critical hour in the history of American labor," the resolution said. "The well-laid plans of organized employers to destroy the labor movement are now apparent to everyone. The organizational gains of labor of the past 10 years are threatened as never before by open-shop employers."

This open-shop drive is aimed not only at crippling present unions, the resolution said, but also aimed at preventing the CIO from organizing still unorganized workers.

"Expanded strength and increased membership of CIO unions is our best defense against the anti-labor plotters. We cannot and will not permit the job of organizing the unorganized to remain half finished."

Turning to the Southern organizing drive, the resolution pointed out that "thousands upon thousands of Southern workers have been brought the benefits of collective bargaining . . . despite an employer-sponsored campaign of terror and repression unmatched in our history."

The future "of the progressive working class in this country depends on our success" in this drive, FTA President Donald Henderson said in speaking on the resolution.

"The drive is of importance to all, and not merely to the Southern workers," he added. "At the beginning of the drive, our union was in a life and death struggle with the Teamsters in California, involving some 60,000 cannery workers. In spite of that, we in FTA recognized the basic and decisive importance of the Southern drive.

"We mortgaged our reserve fund and put through an assesment in four months in order to carry our share in the drive. We multiplied our organizing staff in the South by 10 times between May and November, 1946."

This effort has paid off, Henderson went on, citing the most recent FTA-CIO victory in the citrus industry of Florida, where 1,000 workers voted CIO and a little over 100 voted AFL.

"That is a significant victory," he added, in praising Van A. Bittner for his leadership in the Southern Organizing Committee, "and that work was done exclusively by the Committee."

More than money is needed in this drive, Henderson said, urging that all CIO internationals cooperate to the fullest extent not only with funds but also with organizers and other needed personnel.

The drive has deep political meaning, he said, pointing out that the gang-up in Congress of Southern polltax Democrats with tory Republicans to smash FDR's program was the "direct result of lack of organization in the South."

"The stakes involved in this drive are so great that I want to urge that all other considerations be put aside and the utmost cooperation given by all international unions."

Citing attacks on the CIO by employers and by their stooges in the top leadership of the AFL, the Ku Klux Klan and other groups, Committee Chairman Van A. Bittner said:

"We are not in the South to conduct a Sunday School picnic, we are there to organize. We are not in the South to organize company unions. Therefore, we expect these tyrannical, Tory corporations to be against us. To me it is a good sign, because we are building a union of workers, for workers and by workers."

James J. Matles, director of organization for the United Electircal, Radio and Machine Workers pointed out that there are six to eight million workers in CIO's jurisdiction who are still unorganized—and that not all of them by far are in the South.

"Employers and company unions are using the damnable slander of 'communism' against us," he said. "But in 1946 our union, the UE, won 84% of all NLRB elections it took part in.

"So our answer remains the same: we take on the fight without compromise, and nothing can alter our opinion that the main job is to organize the unorganized."

FTA President Henderson and Van A. Bittner, director of the CIO Organizing Committee conducting the Southern drive, exchange news at the CIO convention. Bittner praised FTA for its leading role in the Southern drive, where FTA has led other unions in elections won and number of workers involved.

PLEDGE FIGHT TO END 'CLASS B CITIZENSHIP'

Pledging to end special discrimination in laws and in wages now dealt out to agricultural workers, the CIO convention unanimously passed a resolution that outlines a drive on their behalf in Congress and other government agencies.

The resolution, which was submitted by the FTA-CIO to the convention, follows:

The millions of agricultural workers are now treated as second class citizens and are denied the basic rights guaranteed by law to other workers.

They are denied the protection of such legislation as the National Labor Relations Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act and the Social Security Act, all of which specifically exempt agricultural workers from their provisions.

Agricultural workers are the victims of a government imposed wartime ceiling on wages, while no attempt is made to place a floor under their earnings, thus subjecting them to the arbitrary decisions of government agencies in collusion with employers.

By government definitions, especially those of the Wage Hour Division of the U. S. Labor Department, the term "agricultural worker" is constantly being broadened to include more and more workers in purely industrial occupations, thus menacing all workers with the same discriminations practiced against agricultural workers.

The same invasion of the rights of industrial workers is made by Congress in the form of riders to appropriations for the National Labor Relations Board and other agencies which extend the definition of "agricultural worker" to include workers in processing and manufacturing and thus deny them the benefits of protective legislation.

The continued existence of these discriminations against millions of agricultural workers is a threat to the standards won by organized industrial labor and to the living standards of all workers.

We pledge our full support to a campaign, through Congress and other appropriate agencies, to end discriminations that force agricultural workers to live at substandard levels and which create a threat to the living standards of all workers.

DELTA LOCALS PILE UP BIG NEW GAINS

By Larry Larsen, Regional Director

Determination to break away from the South's traditionally low-wage scale resulted in the achievement of many excellent gains in the Mississippi Delta Region during the recent round of contract negotiations which involved five successful strikes.

At the Nashville Cotton Oil Co. in Nashville, Tenn., following a strike by Local 150, the union won a 70c minimum, increases of 15 to 25c an hour, paid vacations, call-in pay, time-and-a-half overtime pay, six paid holidays and a six months' wage reopening clause. An election held at the plant recently defeated the AFL United Mineworkers District 50.

In Memphis, Tenn., a two-week strike at the Buckeye Cotton Oil plants also established a 70c minimum with a wage reopening clause. Other gains included time-and-a-half after eight hours a day and 40 hours a week, with double time for the seventh day worked; six paid holidays at double time pay if worked; four hours call-in pay; and vacations at one week for one year and two weeks for three years. Job classifications range from 70c to $1.20 an hour.

A strike at the Helena Compress in Helena, Ark., won a 62½c an hour minimum, six months re-opening clause, time-and-a-half for all overtime, six paid holidays and paid vacations.

The Buckeye Cotton Oil Co. strike in Corinth, Miss., resulted in a 60c minimum, time-and-a-half for overtime, and other gains similar to those at the Buckeye plants in Memphis.

The fifth successful strike which lasted 14 weeks at the Swift Refinery plant in New Orleans, La., ended in an 81c minimum wage, paid vacation, time-and-a-half for overtime and a wage reopening clause.

Contracts have also been signed with the Federal Compress plants in Helena, Ark., and Corinth, Miss., establishing a 60 to 65c minimum, paid vacation and paid holidays.

Wage increases ranging from 15 to 25c an hour were won at the U. S. Tobacco plant in Nashville, Tenn., in the 1946 contract. New rates range from a 75c minimum to $1.50 an hour. Chief feature of the new contract is two weeks' pay without delay regardless of seniority if a worker is injured on the job.

Bolstered by these successes, the Executive Board of the Mississippi Delta Region met in Memphis on November 3 to hammer out a program of organizing all the unorganized cotton oil plants in conjunction with the CIO Southern Drive. Organizing Committees have been set up in each local to work among the unorganized workers in each area.

A program for education and political action was prepared to be submitted to the next Regional Council meeting in New Orleans on November 28. Delegates to the Council meeting will also attend the convention of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare.

Meanwhile, plans are going ahead for a two-week regional leadership training school to be held in March or April.

Honor FDR

Tribute was paid to a "truly great world citizen," Franklin D. Roosevelt, in a resolution passed by a unanimous rising vote at the CIO convention to honor the late President. Delegates rose and stood silently for a minute folowing the reading of the resolution which started in part:

"He stirred the hearts and minds and imagination of the American people as few before in our history and as none in our generation. He led the American people to new heights in social, economic and political progress and understanding . . .

"As a world citizen and world leader his contributions and achievements became the contributions of our country to the welfare of mankind throughout the world."

Boost Rate to 75c

Employees at the Southern Biscuit Co. in Richmond, Va., won a 15c an hour increase across the board this week, raising minimum rates to 75c an hour. Mechanics won increases of 25 to 30c an hour.

The new contract negotiated by Local 57 was extended to cover watchmen and firemen, and provided for an average five hour increase in vacations, increased rest periods and six paid holidays.

OUTLINE ATTACK ON RACISM

A seven point program for an offensive on discrimination practised against the Negro people, Jews, the foreign-born and other minority groups was outlined at the 8th CIO Convention in Atlantic City.

Embodied in four main resolutions, the program also called for the removal of Sen. Theo Bilbo (D. Miss.) and for the abolition by Congress of the witch-hunting Wood-Rankin Committee, that specializes in red-hunts directed against unions and other progressive organizations.

The resolution on race hatred cited postwar outrages against Negroes, stressing the increase in lynching, the terror at Columbia, Tenn., the murder of Negro veterans in Freeport, N.Y., and other instances of fascist persecution.

"Since the end of the war, Negro citizens in several states, including veterans, have been subjected to brutal lynchings," the resolution said.

"There has been an encouragement of police brutality in other communities directed against workers and their labor organizations . . . Anti-Semitic organizations have expanded their activity, the notorious Ku Klux Klan has been revived, the Columbians have now been organized."

"This is an era which requires special vigilance to protect and expand the democracy on which our nation is founded. It is an era that calls for vigorous action to combat racial and religious discrimination wherever it rears its head and whatever form it takes."

Following this, the convention endorsed a seven point plan of action including:

1. Immediate enactment of effective Federal, state and local FEPC laws.

2. Immediate enactment of a Federal anti-lynching bill; plus forbidding "restrictive covenants" and a law to forbid segregation in Washington, D.C.

3. Adequate safeguards against discrimination in all Federal appropriations going to states and municipalities.

4. Repeal of the polltax, both Federal and state.

5. Abolition of the labor-baiting witch-hunting Wood-Rankin Committee in Congress.

6. Ousting of Bilbo when the Senate meets next January.

7. An end to court injunctions issued against labor unions in the attempt to break strikes and hamper other normal union activities.

These two couples are part of a group of more than 60 ex-GIs and their families who took over unrented apartments in Chicago's Airport Homes and announced their intention of staying "until we're thrown out."

CIO TIP ON HOUSING— 'TURN ON THE HEAT'

"The butchers of price control have doubled your food bill. They have run up the price and run down the quality of shoes and clothes. They now have one more victim marked for slaughter: The veteran's Emergency Housing Program," the CIO Housing Committee said this week.

"Our help is needed to save the housing program. Let's get on the ball and organize ourselves for action to carry out the following four-point program," the Committee, of which R. J. Thomas is chairman, added.

1. Representation on housing committees:

Get immediate representation on the Mayor's emergency housing committees and the advisory committees of the nearest construction office of the CPA.

These committees have a lot to say about what is built and what is not. The National Housing Authority and the Civilian Production Administration offices in Washington have issued instruction to their field offices for CIO to be represented.

2. Compliance action:

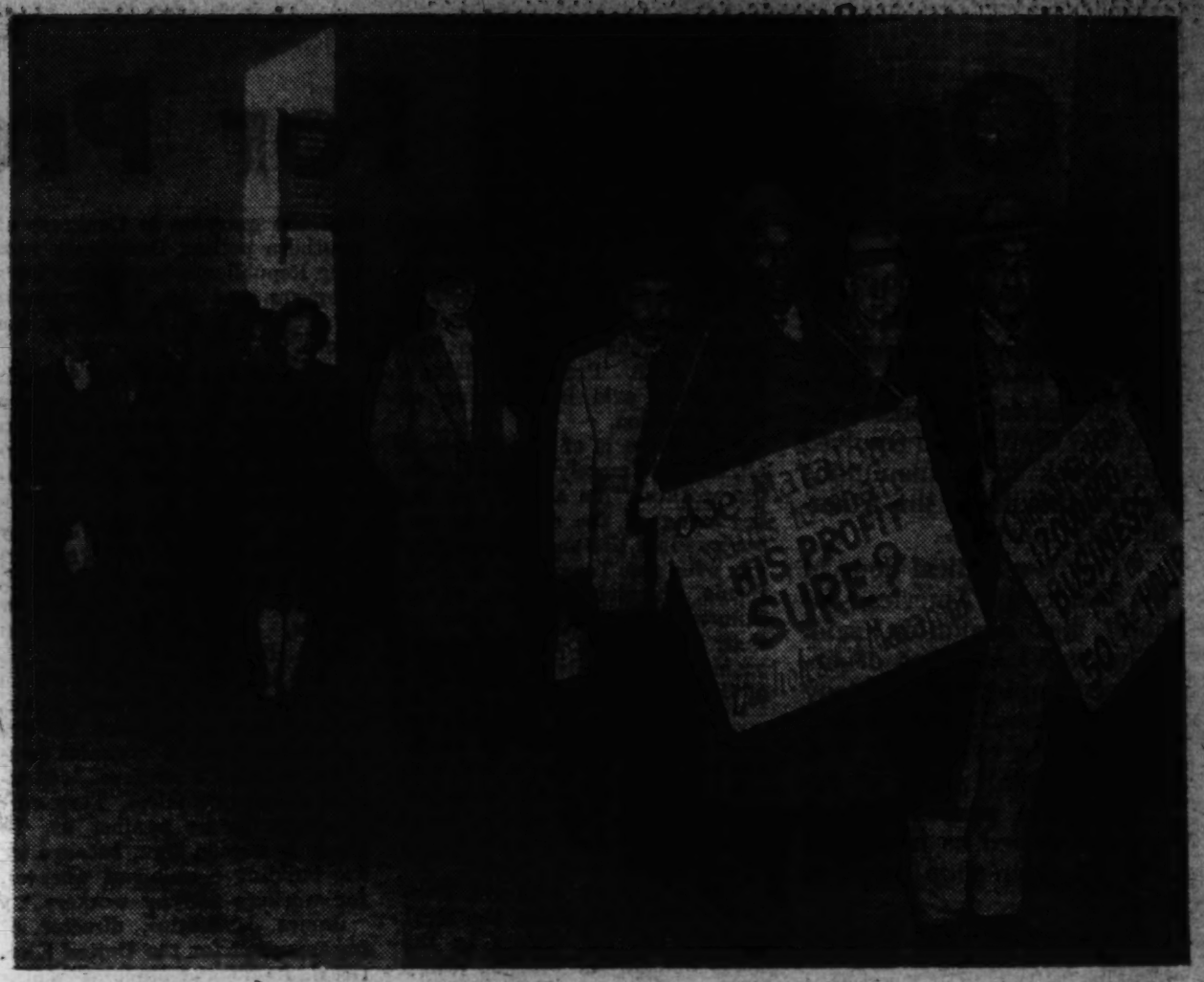
Constitute your housing committee as a local labor-veteran committee. If you do not have a housing committee, for one to:

- Advise veterans who want to build homes or their builders how to serve a priority on a supplier of building materials to assure delivery of goods.
- Tell this veteran or builder to present his order properly certified in writing with a specified date for delivery. If the order is refused, he is to ask in writing for the reason. If he feels he is not getting proper service, he submits copies of the order and a certified order to the compliance office of the CPA.
- Your committee can report to the OPA Area Rent Office new housing which fails to display the "held for veteran's" placard, with sales and rent price; or is sold above the ceiling price or rented to a non-veteran before the waiting period is up.
- Report and expose any violations that you learn about, such as: sales of materials above ceiling prices; the diversion of building materials from authorized uses; any construction which might possible be illegal.

A PROGRAM of public action calls for: Delegation to CPA offices to protest non-essential building; picket lines around CPA offices or Mayor's headquarters if they fail to act to stop violations or continue to say "yes" to unnecessary commercial building; open air meetings demanding state and local emergency housing measures, such as special sessions of legislatures; picket lines to call public attention to bull-headed builders and officials.

Demonstrations at the offices of Mayors, CPA or OPA to draw attention to public abuses and at the site of illegal building or unnecessary building.

LEGISLATION: Urge your Congressman to support the Veteran's Emergency Housing Program and continued rent control. Have him declare his support for the Wagner Housing Bill and campaign for a special session of Congress to pass it.



These members of FTA Local 194, Chicago, are picketing the Chicago Macaroni plant in support of workers striking against 50c an hour wages, speedup and extremely dangerous working conditions.

CHICAGO MACARONI WORKERS FIGHT SPEEDUP, 50c WAGE RATES

One hundred workers, Negro and white, have been holding their picket lines at the Chicago Macaroni Plant surrounded by the Chicago police, for nearly three weeks.

Unbelievably low wages and intolerable working conditions led the Macaroni workers to seek organization in FTA-CIO. Starting wages are 45c an hour. One skilled worker, at Chicago Macaroni for 29 years, makes 78c an hour.

Another lost his right arm in the fast moving macaroni machines some five years ago: his compensation — 56c an hour. Workers say there are absolutely no safety standards in the plant, and tell of a worker being decapitated, others killed in other ways or maimed for life.

The strike started November 12, after weeks of negotiation in which the company refused to offer more than 5c an hour.

The strike is holding, with no macaroni being made, but about 10 scabs, driven to the plant gates in company cars and escorted by the police, have been crossing the picket lines.

The rich arrogant Matalone family which owns the plant has smashed eight previous attempts at organization and are making every effort to smash the FTA also. They have been phoning and visiting workers in the attempt to get them back to work as strikebreakers, and have especially concentrated on white workers in an attempt to split them away from Negro workers.

Support on the picket line and financial contributions have come in from other CIO unions, Farm equipment and U.E., as well as FTA. Three hundred workers from Campbell Soup, King Cole Candy, Chase & Sanborn, College Inn and Steffans Vinegar Divisions of Local 194 missed their own work this past week to march with the Macaroni workers on the picket line.

The union is demanding a substantial wage increase, 60c minimum hiring rate with 65c after 30 days, reopening clause on wages and retroactive increase date, plus union shop and check-off. The company so far refuses everything and offers only 55c an hour minimum with 60c after 30 days.

Ask Aid For Bay Strikers

"In Charleston, South Carolina, a small but bitter strike has been going on for several weeks against the Bay Fruit Co. by our Local 15," said President Donald Henderson in a letter appealing to all FTA locals to back up Local 15's fight.

"Recently, the police, spurred on by the Chief of Police and the Mayor of Charleston, have been using every method possible through terror, intimidation, and by actually calling on the workers in their homes, in an effort to break this strike," he added.

In a broadcast over station WTMA on November 13, Stanfield exposed the attempts of the police and newspapers to smear his name through publicizing his so-called "criminal record."

"I believe that had there been no labor dispute with the Bay Fruit Co., where the workers are attempting to gain a decent living wage through strike action, there would have been no purpose of my past record because there would have been no purpose for this smear. . . .

"On the first case—that of attempt to murder — the press failed to mention that I was under the direction of the LaFollette Senate Investigating Committee and that the charges were dropped as there was no evidence to sustain these trumped-up charges.

"On the second case, Governor Olsen of California issued a full pardon because investigation of the facts proved charges to be false. This decord is on file in Washington, D.C. . . .

Tobacco Workers Find Hope In FTA Victories

By JOHN TISA, FTA Director of Organization

Being in this tobacco belt during this upsurge among the Negro people for CIO unionism is the most inspiring experience that any organizer would want to be involved in.

A sweeping movement of this nature has never aroused the South into action as the FTA is doing today. Within a few short weeks thousands of tobacco workers have swarmed into FTA-CIO.

The confidence these workers feel in the CIO was expressed by one worker who said: "God put the CIO on earth to handle the bosses he couldn't handle Himself."

In our many NLRB elections the workers prove they want FTA-CIO by overwhelming votes for FTA-CIO. Such scores as CIO 263, AFL 3 are every day occurrences. In one case two of three AFL votes were errors. When one woman, returning to her department, discovered she put her "X" in the AFL square instead of the CIO, went back to the voting table and asked the Board agent for another ballot. The Board agent, of course, refused because her ballot was already in the ballot box.

Many of the organization meetings are held in churches. The churches with minor exceptions give wholehearted support to CIO. Where an occasional minister fails to give support or shows hostility toward the CIO, the workers turn to and back up the friendly preachers. In many cases the ministers themselves spearhead the CIO drive.

Tobacco workers know what they want. They want to wipe out 40 cents an hour wages. They want more schools. They want better homes.

The tide of unionism is reaching into the hearts of the tobacco workers and they have at last found a movement by which they can protest against bad economic and social conditions. And at the same time (and for the first time) they're able to do something about them by organizing.

WIN 26c SINCE APRIL

By Armando Ramirez, Regional Director

Wage negotiations concluded by Local 56 with the Henry Cla. and Bock Cigar Co., a subsidiary of the American Tobacco Co. in Trenton, N.J., brought the total gains to 26c an hour since settlement of the American Tobacco strike last April.

The new wage rates provided a nine cent increase for all time workers; $2.10 per 1,000 for hand cigar makers and bunch makers; eight cents for packers; 2½ for cellophaners and banders; and 17c per 1,000 for machine operators.

At the General Cigar plants in Perth Amboy and New Brunswick, N.J., Local 105 won increases of 11c per 1,000 for machine operators, and a six cent an hour increase for all other workers.

A new agreement signed between Local 207 and the Hills Brothers food processing plant in Brooklyn, N.Y., won increases ranging from five to 22c an hour, retroactive to June 1, 1946. Local 207 president Viola Castagnola and secretary-treasurer Rose DeCrescenzo headed the negotiating committee.

Delegates representing workers in the Klein Cigar shops in New York, Trenton and New Brunswick, met in New York last month to form a Klein Shop Council.

Representatives of Local 273 were: Abelardo Baez, E. Huba, Carmen Llerena, and Severino Martinez; Local 105—Mary Godrey, Mary Chrinko, Helen Beck and Ester Fuzesy; Local 56—Lucy Aiello, Betty Mancurie, Helen Borbas and Mary Csocsan.

THE FARMER'S ANGLE

By HOMER AYRES
Farm Equipment Workers, CIO

Now that the election is a thing of the past and the farmers have several long winter months to think things over before they plant another crop, many of them are due for a rude awakening. Those who were taken in, and without a doubt their numbers are many, by the double-distilled, all-out campaign against what is left of the New Deal may come to the conclusion that they have been sold a phoney bill of goods.

Even before the votes were cast papers were printing reports from the Department of Agriculture of revolution that has taken place on the farms, especially during the war years.

Due to the ever increasing mechanization in agriculture, we now produce a third more farm products than before the war with 10 per cent less manpower, and we are only just getting started.

This means exactly one thing: the large farms get larger and the small farmers get pressed toward the wall. Corporate agriculture with all the trappings of industrial corporations will be moving countryward.

In the words of the "agricultural experts" of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and the NAM, the lower two-third of the farmers will be earmarked for elimination as "economic and social liabilities." That is, unless something is done about it. These displaced farmers will move toward the cities and constitute a reserve army of labor looking for jobs—jobs that are going to get fewer.

Another factor that will hasten the folding process of the lower two-thirds of our family-type farmers will be the coming economic depression. The small farmers will be the first to be hit in the pocket-book. The only people that our family-type farmers have to lean on are the people in the ranks of labor.

Such an alliance would be able to help stem the tide of corporation farming by uniting the laboring people with those who also labor on the land around a program of steadily improving the dietary stands of the people. And, as James G. Patton, president of the National Farmers Union put it, "insist that society as a whole guarantee consumption of all we can produce," instead of "trying all kinds of artificial scarcity devices." And the counterpart of full farm production is a program of full employment at steadily improving wages."

Those who rub their hands in glee when they speak of the election remind me of the man who sat on the limb of a tree and cut it off between himself and the trunk, saying: "Look how well the saw cut." They are in for a real bump.

Dope sheets from Washington now say the economists there have all come to the conclusion that purchasing power is less than previously estimated, the so-called recession, when it matures, will be a depression that will make even Herbert Hoover look like the inventor of the horn of plenty.

This "bump" will undoubtedly be the hard-knock needed to stimulate the broad masses of American people, rural and city, into the action needed to build an independent third political party. But—it's a share we only learn through expresience. She's a pretty dear teacher.

HOW TO MAKE A MEETING CLICK

By Connie Anderson, Education Director

Local 999, FTA-CIO, has found the answer to the $64 question—"how can we get the membership out to meetings."

The new FTA Bulletin, **"How to Get the Membership Out to Meetings"** explains that "the members turn out in force because the meetings of Local 999 are interesting. The meetings are interesting because matters of importance to the members are discussed and a program of action on each question is adopted . . .

"Local 999 is no particular local," the Bulletin says. "It might be any FTA local. And this is how the Local 999 meetings are handled:

"The meetings start on time, and end at a reasonable hour.

"The meetings are planned ahead of time.

"The President conducts meetings simply and clearly.

"The members take part in the meetings."

Copies of the bulletin have been sent to each local union President, and the November Education Notes advises each local to order additional copies and to organize discussion classes in the local. An outline for the discussions goes with the bulletin.

Local 80 stewards' class recently held a session on union meetings at which they practiced

carrying through motions properly, discussed the work of the chairman in conducting the meeting well—material which is all covered in the FTA Bulletin, using the imaginary FTA Local 999 as a model.

Local 80 stewards are preparing themselves to conduct their department meetings more smoothly, to become more at ease in the membership meetings, so that each steward will know how to make a contribution to running the meeting well.

By using the bulletin on membership meetings FTA locals can organize their work so that members take pains to avoid missing a meeting.

Half the battle is the organization of committee reports in such a way that members can get their teeth into a program of action on their problems. Problems of grievances, contract negotiations, wage reopening, campaigns for holding rent control, organizing the unorganized plants in town, work with the congressman on bills in Congress, a local union picnic,—all such issues are the meat of a local union meeting, calling for plans of work in which every member takes part in some activity.

An Executive Board that succeeds in this will never have to

complain that the "members are not interested."

Help in carrying out the details of a well-conducted meeting is contained in the bulletin. The chairman is advised how to avoid speaking too much on any question, and at the same time develop discussion by membership. The strategy of an Executive Board determined to start the meeting promptly is described.

Full use of the bulletin can be made by a local if the Executive Board arranges discussions of how to organize the work of the local to draw out the full membership to the meetings.

The Education Department will assist a local union in any way it possibly can to carry through a series of four such classes.

GAINS BY LOCALS

By J. E. Oelberg, Reporter

Local 44's wage reopening negotiations at the Central Soya Company in Decatur, Ind., brought minimum rates up to $1.02½ an hour.

The 15c an hour cost of living increase won by the Local in the negotiations, in addition to a 20c increase won since V-J day, brought total wage gains since V-J Day up to 35c an hour.

Members of the negotiating committee were: International Organizer Ken Hirschy, Albert Tinkham, Paul Shayre, Donald Foreman, Robert G. Judt, Raymond Rolston, Ross Way, G. A. Straub, Vaughn Liechty, Charles Myers, Trenton Sprunger, Lele Williamson and Opal Drum.

A welcome home party for the returned veterans was held by Local 44 on November 23 at Sun Set Park. Round and square dancing, and refreshments for all, helped make the party a successful one.

* * *

Local 44

By Raymond Karstens, Reporter

Recent wage gains at the Northern Illinois Cereal Co. in Lockport, Ill., brought the minimum rate up to 86½c an hour for some 200 employees. The new contract signed by Local 11 won a seven cent an hour increase, retroactive to July 1, and a two and four cent differential for shift workers.

Six paid holidays and a thirty-day wage reopening clause were provided for. In previous contracts with the company, the Local established the union shop, guaranteed work week, and two weeks vacation for three years' seniority.

John Besso, Edward Thomas, Norman Bezold, Michael Gleason, Ed Jackson, Ralph Swanson, Lester McGinn, and International Representative John Sloan, served on the negotiating committee.

* * *

Local 638

By Miriam Cliff, Reporter

Workers at the Morris Levy and Sons Tobacco Co. in Lancaster, Pa. won wage increases, vacations and other gains in a contract signed recently by Local 638.

Wage increases of 12½c an hour were retroactive to August 23. A wage reopening clause provided for additional increases to be the same as those won at the Consolidated Cigar plant.

Vacations of one and two weeks, seven paid holidays, 15 minutes paid rest period, eight hours call-in pay, and adequate grievance machinery were other gains in the contract.

WIN STRIKE, ELECTION

By James Barnett, Regional Representative

Local 53's recent strike victory at the Stokley Foods plant in Hoopeston, Illinois was followed up by a 50 to 30 vote for FTA in a National Labor Relations Board election on November 14. This is the first in a nation-wide chain of Stokley plants to go FTA.

When FTA began organizing the plant several months ago, the company locked out the 35 most active members under the pretext of slack work. A picket line was thrown around the plant forcing the company to agree to the consent election.

Three of the members who did an outstanding job in organizing the plant—William Green, Henr. Bogle and Betty Luther—were named at the local membership meeting on November 19 to receive FTA Merit Awards. They were also elected president, vice-president and secretary of the local, respectively.

Other officers elected were: Harold Flynn, financial secretary George Anthony, sergeant-at-arms; John Mannin, Delton Cloud and Everett Powell, trustees.

Negotiations are due to start soon, according to International Representative John Sloan who is in charge of organizing Hoopeston plants.

Quote Of The Week

FTA Secretary-Treasurer Harold Lane, speaking at the FTA Regional Council meeting in Memphis, Tenn.:

"The big newspaper owners talk about a free press. We have no such thing. During the Campbell Soup dispute, some of the papers in those cities where Campbell has plants had been printing a little of our side of the story along with the company's side.

"Then about four days before our strike deadline, Campbell Soup bought a full page ad in each paper, costing about $5,000 each. That very day those papers came out with long editorials blasting FTA.

"And what about freedom of speech on the radio? You hear a lot about that—from the radio station owners. But Phil Murray, the President of the CIO, wasn't allowed to speak on the radio for the California cannery workers. He was taken off the air one hour before his speech was scheduled—even though we had a signed contract to put it on.

"Free speech — yes — free for the owners and the bosses."

New Local

FTA this week chartered Local 358 at the Spencer Cooperative in Spencer and Trumansburg, N. Y. Employees of the cooperative retail general merchandise, manufacture feed, buy and sell eggs, etc.

SWIFT WORKERS WIN OVER INJUNCTIONS

By Albert O'Brien, International Representative

FTA members of Local 309 in Harvey, La., delivered another blow at the southern low-wage differential last week by raising minimum rates to 86c an hour at the Penick and Ford plant and 87c an hour at the two Swift plants.

A 15-week strike at the Swift Refinery plant, during which the workers had the plant closed down like a morgue, ended in a five cent general increase, bringing the total increase in six months to 21c an hour. Elimination of the no-strike clause in the contract, was a major victory, saving Swift workers from the clutch of Louisiana's "little Case bill." An "open end" wage reopening clause was also negotiated.

The Swift Refinery workers won their fight in the face of two court injunctions under Act 180, an anti-labor law passed during the last session of the Louisiana legislature.

A few days later, Penick and Ford agreed to the Local's demands for a 10c an hour increase, making the total wage gain 26c an hour in the last five months.

On November 28, the Swift Fertilizer plant granted a five cent increase, but the workers here are preparing for even greater wage gains when their contract expires in February.

Trelles Cigar Workers in New Orleans won a 10c an hour increase.

As FTA News goes to press, negotiations are going on at the Southern Shellfish Co. which employs 1,100 workers. An NLRB election is pending at the Baumer Food Products Co. where some 400 workers are employed.

The steady gains made over recent months at these plants has helped to spur FTA organization in the New Orleans area where we have the greatest potential membership of any union.

HAWAII WORKERS WIN

Hawaii's 75-day sugar strike which completely paralyzed the chief industry of the Islands, ended last week with wage gains ranging from 27 to 32c an hour. Under the new agreement, ratified by members of the CIO Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, new minimum wage rates range from 70½c an hour for unskilled labor up to $1.38 for craftsmen. Previous wages were as low as 43c.

The strike involving 25,000 sugar workers on 33 plantations was the first to force Hawaii's monopolistic employers to come to terms with organized labor. Plantation strikes in 1909, 1920, 1924, 1937 and 1938 were all broken.

In addition to checkoff, the union won a non-discrimination clause, the first in any Hawaiian contract.

GAGGED REPORT ON FASCISTS

By GEORGE SELDES and VICTOR WEINGARTEN
Editors, In Fact

Most of the nation's papers are talking about the suppressed report on native facists by O. John Rogge but, like the weather, few are doing anything about it.

The 400-page document prepared by the former sedition trial prosecutor for Atty. Gen. Tom Clark is the most complete official record showing the extent of Nazi penetration into U. S. affairs.

It names the people who worked with the Germans, records the dates of their meetings, the amount of money paid and by whom. Because it pulls no punches, O. John Rogge, special assistant to the attorney general, who wrote it, was fired.

The report, officially, is still listed as a Justice Department "top secret," but Rogge has made portions of it available to the press. Many of the important sections which he has already discussed in his speeches, however, have still gone unreported by most of the papers.

Here are some of the suppressed highlights:

1. Readers' Digest Editor DeWitt Wallace ordered $4,300 paid to Lawrence Dennis, alleged seditionist and self-styled intellectual leader of American fascism. The money was to "tide Dennis over" while he discontinued his pro-Nazi Weekly, Foreign Letter, which Wallace feared would land Dennis in jail. The payments began in 1941 and continued after Pearl Harbor.

2. James D. Mooney, vice president of General Motors, who subsidized the native fascist Society of sentinels, met with a Nazi agent, Gerhard Westrick, and told him he would try to sell President Roosevelt on getting along with Germany, even after Hitler had overrun France, Belgium, Holland and Norway.

3. Sosthenes Behn, president of International Telephone & Telegraph Co., not only met with Westrick and discussed doing business with Hitler, but after the Nazis occupied Czechoslovakia discussed the division of the assets of some Czech companies with the Germans.

4. Senator Burton K. Wheeler's famous isolationist slogan, "We don't want to plow under every fourth American boy," originated with the Nazi propaganda ministry in Berlin and was brought to Washington by an unnamed person.

5. A purported interview with Hitler, signed by Karl von Wiegand June 14, 1940, and circulated by Hearst-owned International News Service, the Hearst and Patterson-McCormick papers, was a phony. The report says the interview never took place.

6 Readers' Digest Editor George T. Eggleston and Douglas H. Stewart of Scribner's Commentator received $39,000 from mysterious sources, at least $15,000 of which was personally given to them by the Nazi press attache in Washington.

7. Readers' Digest senior editor Paul Palmer met with Nazi agents in this country. Regarded as the contact man between the Germans and the Digest, he introduced Dennis to DeWitt Wallace and asked the Nazis for help in starting a new subtle pro-Nazi magazine. Former Nazi Ambassador Hans Thomsen is quoted as saying: "Palmer seemed to be a special admirer of Germany and wanted to engage in some sort of activity."

8. Father Charles E. Coughlin sent Leo T. Reardon, a special emissary, to Berlin. There he met with Nazi Foreign Minister Joachim Von Ribbentrop, assured him of Coughlin's admiration for the Nazis and their principles and spoke against Roosevelt and the Jews. He also transmitted some suggestions from Coughlin for a more effective use of Nazi propaganda in the U. S.

9. Charles A. Lindbergh was the Nazis' favorite. His work in the U. S. was regarded so highly by Berlin that Paul K. Schmidt, head of the German foreign office press department, ordered that Lindbergh's name should not be praised too highly in the German press since it would tend to discredit his great work in the U. S.

One of the most sensational aspects of the report was the charge that John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers (AFL), helped the Nazis obtain Mexican oil for their war machine, aided Hermann Goering's plan for a negotiated peace and then agreed to a fantastic German scheme to defeat Roosevelt for reelection in 1940.

DEWEY PLEASED NAZIS

Rogge, in his report, which is based in part on interviews with various Nazi leaders who since were executed at Nuremberg, says the Nazis were willing to back anyone in their scheme to get rid of Roosevelt.

They preferred Gov. Thomas E. Dewey of New York and tried to work for his election in 1944. The anti-Semitic tinge in the 1944 campaign, capped by the "Clear it with Sidney" slogan, had the Nazis chortling with glee.

Other persons they regarded as not too hostile to them, according to Rogge, were ex-President Herbert Hoover, ex-Vice President John W. Garner, former Postmaster General James A. Farley and particularly Senator Wheeler.

One of the most important sections of the report has been completely ignored by virtually all papers. This is the section headed Recommendations And Conclusions. In it Rogge declares:

"International fascism, though defeated in battle, is not dead. The enemies of democracy did not lay down their weapons on V-E or V-J Day . . .

"Fascism is not dead in the U. S. On the contrary, it is now in the process of postwar reconversion . . . The old familiar faces are once again sporting the old familiar fascist lies. Out from under the stones once more are sprawling those Americans who until Pearl Harbor damned democracy, our President and Congress, applauded every Axis triumph and echoed every Nazis propaganda tune, spread disunity and hate."

HOW TO FIGHT FASCISTS

Pointing to union-busting campaigns and widespread discrimination because of race, color and blood as evidence that the U. S. has already partly succumbed to the fascist program, Rogge asks that the entire American educational system be revised to teach real democracy, expose the Nazi myth of racial superiority and clarify the role of labor unions in our society.

Another way to halt fascist inroads would be removal of second class mail permits from alleged sedition publications, including such hate-peddling sheets as the Cross and the Flag and X-Ray, Rogge believes. He also praises local community crackdowns on fascist activity. Such action was recently taken in Chicago, where Gerald L. K. Smith and some of his cohorts were arrested for creating disturbances.

"For the future security of our country," the report warns, "we should also know the full story of cartels and the collaboration between German and American industrialists."

First chapters of the story were uncovered by the Kilgore committee which had its funds cut and its staff reduced when it was on the verge of obtaining new sensational evidence showing the interlocking industrial relationships between Nazi and American firms.

The FBI and anti-trust division of the Justice Department should pursue the investigation, Rogge suggests, until the complete role of America's industrial leaders in the worldwide fascist network is exposed.

These are some of the men, including prominent industrialists, who are named as having had Fascist connections in the O. John Rogge report suppressed by order of President Truman and Attorney-General Tom Clark. Rogge was the prosecutor in the sedition trials that have now been abandoned. For naming these friends and agents of the Nazis, Rogge was fired. They are: 1) The late Herman Goering; 2) Ham Fish; 3) W. R. Hearst; 4) Charles A. Lindbergh; 5) Father Coughlin; 6) Henry Ford; 7) Wm Davis; 8) ex-Sen. Wheeler; 9) John L. Lewis; 10) Lawrence Dennis; 11) DeWitt Wallace.

COLUMBIANS TIED IN WITH NAZIS, FASCISTS

Grand jury indictments were returned in Atlanta, Ga. Nov. 18 against three leaders of the Columbians, anti-Jewish, anti-Negro organization which is frankly modeled on the Nazi stormtroopers.

Emory Burke, president, and Homer L. Loomis jr., organizer-secretary, were indicted on five counts charging usurpation of police authority, a misdemeanor which carries a penalty of a year in prison. Eighteen-year-old James Ralph Childers, awarded a Columbian "badge of honor" for beating up a Negro, was indicted for riot. This is a felony count, which could put him in jail for from one to five years.

While the Columbians faced jail, a staff investigator of the Scripps-Howard newspapers revealed that Burke is a one-time associate of fascist leaders and notorious German Bundists.

Burke's earlier claims that he was a newcomer to the hate racket were broken down by the Scripps-Howard reporter who forced him to admit that as far back as 1936 he had been in contact with Capt. Hamilton Beamish, head of the Imperial Fascist League of England and dean of the international anti-Semitic movement.

It was also charged that Burke teamed with Ernest Elmhurst of New York, a Nazi supporter who is known as a world leader of anti-Semitism. The evidence came from a letter written by Beamish on Nov. 14, 1936, describing a meeting in New York where he sought leaders to promote an American fascist movement.

"I met young Raymond J. Healey (the 'Irish Hitler')," Beamish wrote. "A man named Boyd Boyston took the chair and the others I met of any note at all were Emory C. Burke from Alabama and Mrs. G. Essen, the latter both Germans. To be quite candid, I saw no sign of real leaders among the American-born, all the others, including Elmhurst, being nationals of other countries."

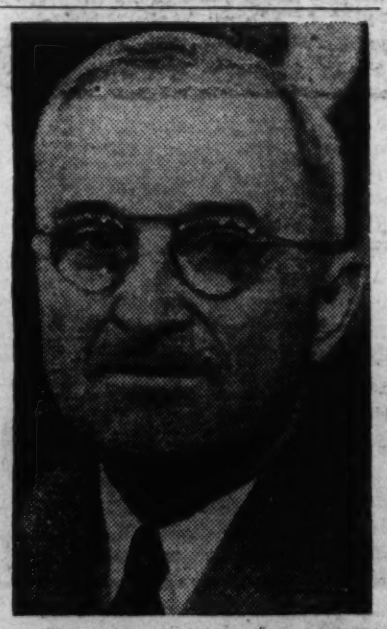
During 1936, it was charged, Burke spent several months in New York generally in the company of Elmhurst, whose real name is Fleischkopf, and regularly attended fascist meetings. In 1937 he went to an international anti-Semitic conference at Erfurt, Germany.

Elmhurst still is under indictment for sedition and only a few months ago was released from a New York prison after serving six months for distributing anti-Jewish literature tending to incite riot.

Instead of being a spontaneous uprising of whites against Negroes, as Burke maintains, the Columbians was evidently stimulated by the Elmhurst-Maertz movement, the Scripps-Howard reporter said. The disclosures also cast doubt on an earlier claim that "any resemblance between the Columbians and the Nazi movement is purely coincidence."

All the trappings and methods of operation in the Columbians' headquarters are in the Nazi style, even to the brown-shirted guard of strongarm youths stationed outside Burke's office and the red banner with the Columbians emblem on the wall behind his desk.

Gag on nazi expose was applied by U.S. Attorney-General Tom Clark, who cannot find time to prosecute native fascists, Ku Kluxers, Columbians.



Order for gag was widely reported to have been given by President Harry S. Truman, who has just ordered a new witch hunt on alleged "reds" in government.